



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **FLORIDA PREDATOR CONVICTED OF ABUSING A 13-YEAR-OLD GIRL NOW IN ICE CUSTODY AWAITING REMOVAL**

HILLSBOROUGH, FL –A 26-year-old predator convicted of lewd and lascivious battery against a 13-year-old girl was arrested here Wednesday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers and special agents.

Rutilio Gomez Mongue, a citizen of Honduras, was convicted on Feb. 14, 2005 after he pleaded guilty to abusing a 13-year-old girl and to carrying a concealed stolen firearm. Mongue was arrested by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office on June 28, 2004 on the arms charges. He was subsequently arrested on Aug. 25, 2004 on the battery charges.

Mongue was sentenced to 8-years probation for the battery charges, and 5-years probation for the arms charges. The two probation terms were to be served concurrently.

As a citizen of Honduras, Mongue was afforded temporary protective status (TPS); however, his criminal convictions have made him ineligible for relief.

"This monster squandered his legal right to be in the country the moment he hurt an innocent child," said Michael Rozos, Florida's field office director for detention and removal. "We have zero tolerance for those who prey on our children. Predators beware: we will find you, arrest you and remove you."

Mongue is in ICE custody at the Bradenton Detention Center in Bradenton, Florida. His removal from the country is imminent.

This arrest is part of a nationwide initiative known as Operation Predator. Operation Predator protects our children from sexual predators, including those who travel across continents to have sex with minors. Internet child pornographers and criminal alien sex offenders and child traffickers are

also a priority for ICE. Since the initiative was launched in July of 2003, there have been more than 5,500 individuals arrested nationwide.

ICE encourages anyone who wants to report suspicious activity of suspected child predators and suspicious activity through our toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

# ICE #

*ICE, the primary investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, was established to bring a unified focus to the enforcement of U.S. immigration and customs laws, with the principal goal of preventing violations by terrorists and other criminals who threaten the nation's security.*